



*Hollister*  
"Service, Pride and Integrity" **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Report of Home Invasion Robbery Found to be Fictitious**

HOLLISTER, CALIFORNIA – July 1, 2009 – On June 30, 2009, a Hollister resident reported being the victim of a home invasion robbery at her home on the 800 block of Fourth St. The victim reported that a Hispanic male and a Hispanic female forced their way into her home and robbed her of money and jewelry while holding her at gunpoint.

Patrol officers and detectives of the Hollister Police Department responded to the area and surrounded the home. After it was determined the suspects had fled, a county wide "be-on-the-lookout" was broadcast for all law enforcement agencies.

At 2:00 p.m. that afternoon, San Benito County sheriff's deputies stopped on a van matching the description of the suspect vehicle in San Juan Bautista. Based on the initial report of a gun being used in the home invasion robbery, a "felony car stop" was initiated by deputies who detained the occupants of the van at gunpoint. The van's occupants were found to have no connection to this investigation and were released at the scene.

While conducting additional investigation on July 1, 2009, Hollister Police detectives questioned the victim further and learned that she provided a false description of the events of June 30, 2009. The victim reported being the victim of a lottery scam rather than a home invasion robbery.

The victim said she was contacted by a Hispanic female asking for help in locating a church in Hollister. The female suspect claimed to have won the lottery and was trying to get the money to her family at the church. A Hispanic male then approached both women and joined the conversation.

The Hispanic female and Hispanic male worked together to gain the victim's trust and convinced her to turn over several thousand dollars in cash and jewelry, using the ruse that lottery headquarters needed \$20,000 as a security deposit before they would pay out \$200,000 in winnings. The suspects promised the victim several thousand dollars in return for her assistance in acquiring the \$20,000 security deposit, a portion of which the victim withdrew from her bank. As all three were driving, supposedly to deliver the security deposit, the female suspect complained of a stomachache and asked for aspirin. The victim was asked to go into a supermarket to purchase the aspirin. She was given an envelope, containing what she believed to be the \$20,000 as a sign of trust by the suspects, and went into the store.

When she returned she found that both suspects had disappeared. When the victim opened the bag she discovered newspapers rolled up to look like the \$20,000 in bills she believed were in the bag.



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This type of scam is common throughout the state. Residents are asked to exercise proper judgment if approached by people with offers that appear too good to be true. If anyone is approached for this, or any other type of scam, they are urged to contact law enforcement immediately.

The suspects in the lottery scam are described as a Hispanic male, possibly in his 60's, heavy set, wearing a beige shirt and beige pinstriped pants. The female suspect was a Hispanic female possibly in her 50's, dark complexion, possibly Central or South American descent, heavy set, wearing beige pants. The suspect vehicle is described as a newer model, grey or blue full size van with dark colored interior.

Many resources were allocated to this investigation and to the traffic stop in San Juan Bautista. The Hollister Police Department does not wish to dissuade anyone from reporting having been victimized, however, making a false police report is a crime. This case will be forwarded to the San Benito County District Attorney's Office for review of possible charges of filing a false police report.

For further information, please contact the Hollister Police Department at (831) 636-4330.

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Copies to: City Manager  
Press Log  
Watch Commander  
Briefing  
Case File

Operations Commander  
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